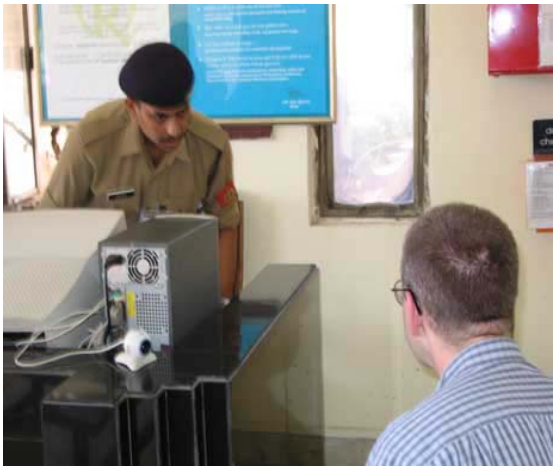
Best Practice: Digital Color Pictures on all Visitor ID Badges



Category:	**Access Control**
Location First Observed:	**Port of Neva Sheva, Mumbai, India**
Date First Observed:	**May, 2005**

Description:

In addition to providing identification, all visitors to the facility are required to have a digital photo taken at the security office that is printed in color directly on their temporary visitor identification

Discussion:

Color digital photos can be taken and printed very quickly, and at a very low cost. Photos can be printed onto the temporary visitors ID badge as well as permanently saved in a database for future reference. Inexpensive software programs can be used to integrate the photo and the visitor ID information into a single entry, printing out the photo along with the visitor ID badge. By using a single piece of paper with the printed information and photo, it is more difficult to tamper with the ID and exchange the approved photo for a fraudulent one. By using waterproof inks, there is also less need to laminate the temporary ID card. To enhance accountability and security, all temporary visitor passes are collected from visitors when they depart the facility. Photos can be used both to enhance effectiveness of visitor ID badges, and to share with security or law enforcement forces in the event the person is suspected of a criminal act.

Potential Down-side:

It is more time consuming to take pictures of all visitors to a facility, however with the right software package and printer, the additional time required can be minimal. Unless anti-counterfeiting measures are integrated into the ID card, it will be possible for others to forge reasonable likenesses using other software programs. Cameras should be high enough resolution so that photo enlargements up to 3x5 inches render an accurate likeness of the person.

Conclusion:

A photo significantly enhances the effectiveness of any ID card. The rapidly falling cost and rising speed of computer technology and digital cameras make this practice increasingly practical and affordable.

Cost:

Hardware and Software; $1,000. Supplies; $100 per 500 photo ID cards